GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:80
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
ELECTIONS IN THE COOPERATIVE SECTOR
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether elections to various rural and urban units of the cooperative sector are not held on time and the service tenure of administrators is not fixed which defeats the basic principle of democracy in the cooperative sector;

(b) the present list of States holding timely elections for the said units;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make legal provisions for making time-bound elections mandatory in the cooperative sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.80 DUE FOR REPLY ON 3RD MARCH, 2008.

(a): "Cooperative Societies" is a State Subject under Entry 32 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. The States, therefore, have enacted their own Cooperative Societies Acts to regulate the functioning, inter-alia, holding the elections, of cooperative societies coming within their territorial jurisdiction. The Central Government has no legislative or executive jurisdiction over the cooperative societies registered under the State Acts. However, in many of the States, elections to the cooperative societies are not held in time and the Administrators continue to manage the affairs of such cooperative societies.It is felt that the frequent and en-mass supersession of board of directors of cooperative societies and continuation of Administrators for a long period is against the basic principle of democratic management of the cooperative institutions.

(b): The information is being collected and the same would be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(c) & (d): In order to ensure the autonomous functioning and democratic management of cooperatives, the Government has introduced the Constitution (106th Amendment) Bill, 2006 in this House on 22.5.2006. The Amendment Bill, inter alia, provides for conduct of elections before expiry of the term of the board. The Bill also provides for supersession of board for a limited period, on reasonable and tangible grounds, in the cases where the Government have share holding or have provided loan or financial assistance or any government guarantee, for a period not exceeding one year for the cooperative societies doing the business of banking and six months for other cooperative societies.